

Listing of Claims:

1.-36. (cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell comprising:

a reaction chamber;

a plurality of capillary tubes configured to permit an oxidant ~~a fuel component~~ to flow there through, the capillary tubes being arranged in bundles in adjacent segments within the reaction chamber;

a plurality of electrodes, at least one of the plurality of electrodes passing through each of the plurality of capillary tubes, being against each of the plurality of capillary tubes, or passing through and being against each of the plurality of capillary tubes; and

a plurality of counter-electrodes,

wherein each electrode extends beyond ends of its respective capillary tube,

wherein electrodes associated with capillary tubes of a segment are electrically connected to one another at each end at substantially the same electrical potential, and

wherein each segment has a wall section to which is attached at least one of the counter-electrodes or wherein the wall section at least partially forms at least one of the counter-electrodes.

38. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 37, wherein the segments are circular segments.

39. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell of claim 37, wherein respective ones of the electrodes of a capillary tube of each segment are electrically connected to the respective counterelectrode of an ~~the~~ adjacent segment.

40. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 37, wherein the electrodes are electrically connected to one another at their adjacent ends.

41. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell of claim 37, further comprising a switch and electrical connections that are capable of being preset by the switch.

42. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 37, wherein each segment has its own wall.

43. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 42, wherein two adjacent segments have wall sections which face each other and form two spaced separating walls.

44. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 37, wherein two adjacent segments share a common separating wall.

45. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 43, wherein the separating walls are constructed without a seal.

46. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell of claim 43, wherein each of the separating walls has a separately constructed one of the plural counterelectrodes, ~~counterelectrode~~ which constitutes the counterelectrode of the respective segment.

47. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell of claim 44, wherein the common separating wall has one of the plural counterelectrodes ~~a counterelectrode~~ on each side.

48. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell of claim 47, wherein each of the plural counterelectrodes comprises a support sheet, and a lattice-shaped mount for a catalyst, the lattice-shaped mount covering the support sheet.

49. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 37, wherein each of the capillary tubes comprises a lattice-shaped core comprised of titanium, a catalyst surrounding the lattice-shaped core, and a membrane surrounding the catalyst.

50. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 48, wherein at least one of the support sheet and the lattice-shaped mount is comprised of titanium.

51. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 37, wherein ends of the capillary tubes are open so that a gas can flow through each of the capillary tubes.

52. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 51, further comprising a pressure chamber formed at one of the open ends of each of the capillary tubes, and a ventilator for admitting atmospheric air into the pressure chamber.

53. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell of claim 52, further comprising a common, closed-end feed line for the oxidant ~~fuel-component~~, the feed line extending between the segments and having openings through which the oxidant ~~fuel-component~~ can flow into the reaction chamber.

54. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 37, further comprising an exhaust gas line extending from outside of the fuel cell and having openings through which a gaseous reaction product in the reaction chamber can flow into the exhaust gas line and out of the fuel cell.

55. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 53, further comprising an exhaust gas line extending from outside of the fuel cell and having openings through which a gaseous reaction product in the reaction chamber can flow into the exhaust gas line and out of the fuel cell.

56. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 55, wherein the exhaust gas line is a continuation of the feed line.

57. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 53, further comprising:

a pump chamber formed at the other of the open ends of each of the capillary tubes; and
a pump installed in the pump chamber and connected to the feed line.

58. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell of claim 57, further comprising:
pumps for pumping the respective individual components of the oxidant ~~fuel component~~
into the feed line; and
a control system for automatically controlling operation of the pumps to optimally adjust
proportions of ~~the~~ respective individual oxidants ~~fuel components~~.

59. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell of claim 58, wherein the individual oxidants
~~fuel components~~ comprise water and methanol.

60. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 52, wherein the fuel cell is oriented
that the capillary tubes are disposed vertically and the pressure chamber is disposed above the
reaction chamber.

61. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 60, further comprising a collecting
chamber for collecting a liquid phase emerging from the plural capillary tubes.

62. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 61, wherein the liquid phase is
water, and further comprising a means for returning the water to the reaction chamber.

63. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 37, wherein the reaction chamber is filled with acidic methanol.

64. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell of claim 37, further comprising at least one level sensor for monitoring a filling level of the oxidant ~~fuel component~~ in the reaction chamber.

65. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 63, wherein a free space remains above the acidic methanol.

66. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell of claim 64, wherein the fuel cell is configured such that when ~~if~~ the filling level is outside a range of levels, a reaction process occurring in the fuel cell is stopped.

67. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 37, further comprising:
a cylindrical housing having opposite first and second axial ends;
a first cover plate covering the first axial end; and
a second cover plate covering the second axial end,
wherein the segments are disposed inside the cylindrical housing with the ends of each of the capillary tubes extending through the first and second cover plates.

68. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 67, wherein each of the first and second cover plates are configured to grip the segments and hold the segments in place, each of

the first and second cover plates further comprising panels in which ends of the capillary tubes are mounted.

69. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 68, further comprising connectors electrically connected to the counter-electrodes, and wherein the connectors extend through the first and second cover plates.

70. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 67, wherein the first and second cover plates have grooves on a side surface thereof, holding the segments in place.